

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 PRS-01 ISO-00 AF-10 IO-14 EUR-25 H-03 PCH-02

SAB-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 EB-11

COME-00 INT-08 FEA-02 TRSE-00 SCI-06 CIEP-02 L-03

/173 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WIWRIGHT

APPROVED BY NEA/P:WIWRIGHT

S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

----- 110844

R 082032Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHREN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
FEBRUARY 8, 1974:

1. QUOTE: QUESTION: IS THERE ANYTHING FURTHER FROM THE U.S.
STANDPOINT CONCERNING THE LIFTING OF THE ARAB OIL EMBARGO?
ANSWER: NO, WE HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO ADD AT THIS TIME.

2. QUESTION: CAN YOU AMPLIFY, WHAT THE SECRETARY HAD IN MIND
WHEN HE SAID IF THE OIL EMBARGO WAS NOT LIFTED IT WOULD
AFFECT OUR DIPLOMATIC ATTITUDE? ANSWER: I DON'T THINK I
WOULD WANT TO PUT MORE PRECISION ON THIS. ON BACKGROUND
IT'S A NATURAL FACT OF LIFE. WE HAVE CARRIED ON AN
EXTENSIVE AND ENERGETIC POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND IF,
IN SPITE OF THIS ACTIVITY ON OUR PART, WE CONTINUE TO FACE
AN EMBARGO, IT WOULD ONLY BE NATURAL TO LOOK INTO THE
SITUATION AS TIME WENT ON. BUT I WOULD NOT WANT TO BE
ANY MORE PRECISE THAN THAT.

3. QUESTION: THE REASON I ASKED IS PREVIOUSLY THE
SECRETARY HAS MADE A POINT OF DRAWING A DISTINCTION
BETWEEN AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST
TOWARD A SETTLEMENT AND THE EMBARGO QUESTION. HE RESISTED
QUESTIONS AT PREVIOUS PRESS CONFERENCES TRYING TO ENGAGE
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HIM INTO DRAWING SOME KIND OF LINKAGE. ANSWER: IN THAT
CONNECTION, HIS LAST QUESTION AND ANSWER AT HARVARD, HE
PUT A VERY BROAD BASIS ON WHY WE WERE DOING WHAT WE WERE
DOING. HE SPOKE: "THE UNITED STATES HAS DECLARED,
BECAUSE OF ITS CONVICTION THAT A CONTINUATION OF THE
CONFLICT THERE HAS DANGER FOR ALL OF MANKIND, FOR THESE
REASONS THE UNITED STATES" HAS BEEN READY TO HELP. AND
I THINK THAT FACT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

4. QUESTION: HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION, AND I WANT AN EXPLANATION OF WHAT HE MEANT. DID HE MEAN HE HAD RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION THAT SYRIA WAS DEMANDING AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO THE 1967 LINE, OR NO OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION THAT THAT COMMITMENT IS BEING LINKED TO A LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO? ANSWER: HE USES, HIMSELF, A STATEMENT, "WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL INFORMATION TO THE EFFECT THAT SYRIA REQUIRES ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW TO THE '67 BORDER." AND I THINK I HAVE TO LEAVE THE STATEMENT AS IT STANDS.

5. QUESTION: HAS THE UNITED STATES BEEN INFORMED THAT ACTIVITY ON THE SYRIAN FRONT WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO? ANSWER: I'M GOING TO LEAVE MYSELF RIGHT WHERE I WAS BEFORE, THAT I'M NOT AT THIS STAGE GOING TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF COMMUNICATIONS THAT ARE GOING ON.

6. QUESTION: CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS WERE SPOKEN ABOUT PUBLICLY, BOTH BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY SECRETARY KISSINGER FOLLOWING HIS HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE HEARING. AT THAT TIME HE SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT CERTAIN COUNTRIES WOULD ASK FOR LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO ON THE 14TH. HAS THE U.S. RECEIVED ANY SUBSEQUENT COMMUNICATIONS WHICH CAUSED DR. KISSINGER'S MORE PESSIMISTIC REMARKS AT THE HARVARD CLUB? ANSWER: I WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO CHARACTERIZE HIS REMARKS, BUT I WOULD SAY THAT, AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE COMMUNICATIONS THAT WERE REFERRED TO STAND.

7. Q: SO THAT AS THE UNITED STATES OFFICIALLY UNDERSTANDS
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IT, IT IS AS DR. KISSINGER STATED AFTER THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, WHICH IS THAT CERTAIN COUNTRIES WOULD MOVE FOR A LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, AND WE'VE HAD NOTHING. ANSWER: CORRECT

8. QUESTION: IS THERE ANY UNANNOUNCED MEETING OF THE SECRETARY WITH THE ALGERIAN OIL MINISTER TODAY?
ANSWER: NO, I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH MEETINGS SCHEDULED AS OF THE PRESENT TIME. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED SANAA.

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